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As an account of the North American bears this paper is far in advance of anything hitherto published.

The difficulty of distinguishing several species of the typical *Ursi* in North America has not been so much the absence of characters among themselves, as the intermediate position of the old world *Ursus arctus* with regard to them. Middendorff's studies of this species convinced him that it varied in size 33 per cent. of the largest dimensions, and in other respects, but he could not refer the varieties to more than one species. With these very elaborate studies as a basis, J. A. Allen and A. E. Brown in subsequent years could only see in the North American grizzly and black bears, geographical races. The fault then of Dr. Merriam's paper is, that he has not given any account of the relations of our bears to the intermediate series of the Old World.

Dr. Merriam is a genus fancier, and he bids fair to adopt all of the names of his illustrious predecessor Dr. J. E. Gray of the British Museum. Thus he adopts Gray's name, *Thalarcos* for the polar bear on characters which do not exist. He dallies with *Euarctos* for our black bear for equally poor reasons. We must admit, however, that Dr. Merriam does for the first time give satisfactory characters with which to distinguish this species from the *Ursus arctus*.

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General Notes.

PETROGRAPHY.¹

The Eruptives and Tuffs of Tetschen.—Two interesting articles on the area of crystalline rocks east of Tetschen on the Elbe, have appeared simultaneously. The first, by Hibsche, is a description of the Tetschen² sheet of the map of the Bohemian Mittlegebirges, and the second by Graber,³ is on the fragments and bombs occurring in the tephrite tuffs of the region.

The volcanic rocks of the district are interbedded basalts, tuffites, tuffs and tephrites, of which the fragmental rocks are in greatest abundance. Augitites also occur as sheets, and camptonites as dykes in upper Cretaceous marls. The older igneous rocks are granitites and diabases that are associated with clay slates, probably of Cambrian age. Analyses of each of these rocks are given but the rocks are not described in detail. The greater portion of the author's article deals with the volcanic rocks. The tuffs are composed of basaltic and tephritic fragments of the coarseness of sand in some cases, and in others of

¹ Edited by Dr. W. S. Bayley, Colby University, Waterville, Me.

² Min. u. Petrog. Mitth., XV, 1895, p. 201.

³ Ib., p. 291.